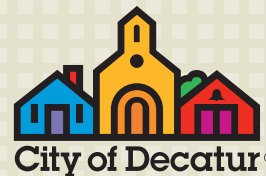


City of Decatur FOCUS



OCTOBER 2022
Volume 33 • Number 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

DECATUR FIRE PROMOTES FIRE PREVENTION IN OCTOBER

Decatur Fire Rescue is highlighting fire safety all month long, encouraging residents to develop safety plans and install (or test) smoke detectors in their homes. This push for fire safety coincides with the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week™, the longest-running public health observance in the U.S. Each October, The National Fire Protection Association observes this week to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land. Contact Assistant Chief Ninetta Violante, ninetta.violante@decaturga.com or call 404-947-0522 for more information.

MORE DECATUR FIRE RESCUE NEWS ON PAGE 5.

Fire extinguisher training at Fire Station No. 1. ►



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Since 1995, A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur, in partnership with the Decatur community (residents, places of worship, businesses, neighborhood associations, clubs, and other caring people), has helped make the holiday season brighter for children and senior citizens in Decatur. After two years of virtual giving, we are pleased to return to the traditional giving process so donors can directly purchase gifts or make a donation and we can do the shopping.



Donors are asked to spend \$125-\$150 on each recipient, based on a wish list specific to each recipient. The lists are created with the help of in-person conversations with seniors and each child's parent or guardian, and include a mix of wants (toys, books) and needs. Wish lists will be available in October and include a list of items with specific sizes and wishes. If a child needs a warm winter coat, please make that your first purchase. We also want every child to receive a book. If you purchase from Little Shop of Stories, mention A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur and Little Shop of Stories will donate 20 percent of your purchase to our effort. Gifts are due on the first Saturday in December.

Financial contributions of any amount can be made at legacydeatur.org/a-season-of-giving-christmas-decatur or by sending a check made payable to Decatur Legacy Project (indicate Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur in the memo portion) and mail to A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur, PO Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031. For more information, to volunteer, or to obtain wish lists, email aseasonofgiving@decaturga.com or call 404-378-8068.

Hagen Rosskopf/Bike Law GA Teams Up with Free Bikes 4 Kidz ATL

Hagen Rosskopf is accepting used bicycle donations to support the ATL 2022 Annual Giveaway. Donated bicycles and tricycles can be dropped on the law practice porch (119 N. McDonough Street) any time, day or night.

For many kids, this program offers their first bike, so Free Bikes 4 Kidz is dedicated to making the experience special. In addition to receiving a bike, each child gets a free helmet and is assisted by a volunteer to find a bike best suited for them. Last year as part of the 6th Annual Bike Giveaway, Hagen Rosskopf collected nearly 200 bicycles, which contributed to more than 700 total bikes. The bicycles are cleaned and repaired by volunteers, including 2021 U.S. pro national bicycle road race champion and Decatur native, Joey Rosskopf. To learn more about FB4K ATL's mission, visit fb4katl.org/donate/donate-a-bike.



From left: Matt Hagen and Kendrick McWilliams, attorneys; Diana Wong, Kimberly Hart, Pamela Woods Conley, paralegals; Bruce Hagen, founding partner; Lory Gustave, Amie Risley, Jamie High, paralegals; Zach Nelson, attorney and Dan Pruitt, paralegal. The team loads collected bikes onto trucks to deliver to Free Bikes 4 Kidz ATL in November 2021

Leaf Them Be

Autumn brings cooler weather and trees radiating brilliant colors of red, yellow, and orange. For the City of Decatur, a designated Tree City of the World by the Arbor Society, fall also brings lots of leaves on the ground. This year as you plan your fall cleanup, consider leaving the leaves in the natural areas of the yard instead of bagging them to be hauled off as litter to a landfill. Letting the leaves remain on the ground has many environmental benefits, including:

- natural soil amendment that builds and fertilizes soil while hindering weeds
- food and habitat for bees, butterflies, beetles, and moth pollinators
- food, habitat, and nesting material for birds during the winter
- insulation for plant roots
- habitat for hibernating frogs, salamanders, and snakes

- food for decomposers such as snails and worms that create soil and provide food for songbirds
- retains soil moisture and reduces stormwater runoff

Allowing the leaves from your trees to remain on the yard also saves money in lawn bags, mulch, or trips to the store; reduces carbon emissions; limits noise in the community from leaf blowers; and gives back the time spent picking up leaves to do something else on a beautiful fall weekend. Did you know:

- Fireflies spend their first two years underground and under leaves.
- Raking leaves off your lawn into side beds or other areas provides benefits.
- Mowing leaves into smaller pieces makes them less obvious and adds nutrients to your lawn.